

NEWS *Committee on Resources*

U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives - Website address: <http://www.house.gov/resources>

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Veterans Bills Passed By House Subcommittee

Washington, D.C. - Two bipartisan bills honoring veterans were approved today by the U.S. House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

H.R. 1509, which was introduced by **U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)**, was passed by a voice vote. The bill currently has 71 cosponsors and would authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 3293, which was as introduced by **U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA)**, was passed by voice vote as amended. It currently has 223 cosponsors and would authorize the placement of a plaque within the site of the memorial to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam War, but as a direct result of that service.

Memorial Will Stand As A Tribute to Disabled Veterans - Rep. Sam Johnson

"This is the first step toward honoring our veterans who sacrificed so much to win and keep our freedom," said **Rep. Johnson** of H.R. 1509. "We must never forget the terrifying human costs - physical, psychological, and spiritual - that so many paid on behalf of their fellow citizens. When I was released as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, there was a quote scrawled on the wall, which said, 'freedom has a taste to those who fought and almost died that the protected will never know.' This memorial will stand as a tribute to those disabled veterans, who fought and almost died, and their sacrifices for democracy."

"Some Vietnam Veterans Are Still Not Being Fully Recognized" - Rep. Gallegly

"Honoring the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country should always be a priority," said **Rep. Gallegly** of H.R. 3293. "Unfortunately, the service and sacrifice of some Vietnam veterans still are not being fully recognized because they cannot have their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

"The wall is open to some veterans who died after the conflict, but the criteria for eligibility does not include all veterans whose post-war deaths were a direct result of the war, including those who died from such factors as Agent Orange and post traumatic stress syndrome. This bill recognizes the sacrifices of these veterans by creating a small plaque that will be placed in the general area of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with a fitting inscription that honors these fallen heroes."

For more information, please check the House Committee on Resources Home Page at <http://www.house.gov/resources/>

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